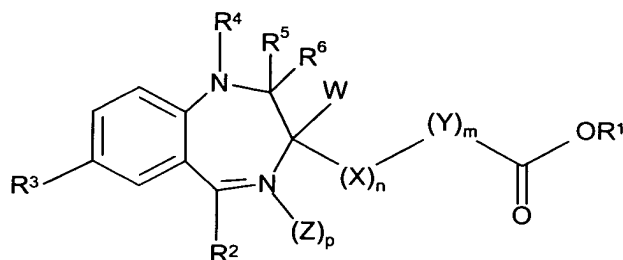


30 are not amended herein, they are included in the following to provide a complete set of claims as pending after the instant amendment. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto.

1. (Amended) A compound of formula (I):



Formula (I)

wherein

W is H, a C₁-C₄ branched alkyl, or straight chained alkyl;

X is CH₂, NH or NCH₃; n is 1 or 2;

Y is O or CH₂; m is 0 or 1, provided that if X is CH₂, n is 1 and m is 0, then R¹ is not CH₂CH₃;

Z is O; p is 0 or 1;

R¹ is H, a C₁-C₇ straight chain alkyl, a C₃-C₇ branched chain alkyl, a C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, a C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl, an aryl, a heteroaryl, an aralkyl, or a heteroaralkyl;

R² is phenyl, 2-halophenyl or 2-pyridyl,

R³ is H, Cl, Br, F, I, CF₃ or NO₂; and wherein

(1) R^4 is H, a C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or a dialkylaminoalkyl and R^5 and R^6 together represent a single oxygen or S atom which is linked to the diazepine ring by a double bond and p is zero or 1; or (2) R^4 and R^5 together is a double bond in the diazepine ring and R^6 represents the group NHR^7 wherein R^7 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl, pyridyl C_{1-2} alkyl, imidazolyl C_{1-2} alkyl, benzyl, benzyl mono or disubstituted independently with halogen substituents, C_{1-4} alkylpyridyl or C_{1-4} alkylimidazolyl and p is zero; or (3) R^4 , R^5 and R^6 form the group $-CR^8=U-V=$ wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, U is N or CR^9 wherein R^9 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, V is N or CH and p is zero; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

2. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

W is H;

X is CH_2 or NH; n is 1;

Y is CH_2 ; m is 0 or 1, provided that if X is CH_2 , n is 1 and m is 0, then R^1 is not CH_2CH_3 ;

Z is O; p is 0 or 1;

R^1 is H, CH_3 , CH_2CH_3 , $(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$, $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $C(CH_3)_3$, benzyl, 4-pyridylmethyl or 3-pyridylmethyl;

R^2 is phenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;

R^3 is Cl, Br or NO_2 ;

R^4 is H, CH_3 or $CH_2CH_2N(CH_2CH_3)_2$;

R^5 and R^6 together are either O or S; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

3. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

W is H;

X is CH_2 or NH; n is 1;

Y is CH_2 ; m is 1;

p is 0;

R^1 is H, CH_3 , CH_2CH_3 , $(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $(CH_2)_3CH_3$, $CH(CH_3)_2$, $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $C(CH_3)_3$, benzyl, 4-pyridylmethyl or 3-pyridylmethyl; provided that if R^1 is 3-

pyridylmethyl or 4-pyridylmethyl, then X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 0 or 1, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl, R⁴ is H and R⁵ and R⁶ together are O; R² is phenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl, R³ is Cl, Br or NO₂; R⁴ is H, CH₃ or CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂; provided that when R⁴ is CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃ or benzyl, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl and R⁵ and R⁶ together is O; R⁵ and R⁶ together are O or S; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

4. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

W is H;

X is CH₂ or NH; n is 1;

Y is CH₂; m is 0 or 1, provided that if X is CH₂ and m is 0, then R¹ is not CH₂CH₃;

p is 0;

R¹ is CH₃, CH₂CH₃, (CH₂)₂CH₃, (CH₂)₃CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃, benzyl or 4-pyridylmethyl;

R² is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl,

R³ is Cl, Br or NO₂;

R⁴ is H, CH₃ or CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂;

R⁵ and R⁶ together are O or S; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

5. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

W is H;

X is CH₂ or NH; n is 1;

Y is CH₂; m is 0 or 1, provided that if X is CH₂ and m is 0, then R¹ is not CH₂CH₃;

p is 0;

R¹ is CH₃, CH₂CH₃, (CH₂)₂CH₃, (CH₂)₃CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, C(CH₃)₃, benzyl or 4-pyridylmethyl; provided that when R¹ is 4-pyridylmethyl, then X is

CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl, R⁴ is H and R⁵ and R⁶ together are O;

R² is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl,

R³ is Cl, Br or NO₂;

R⁴ is H, CH₃ or CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂; provided that when R⁴ is

CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃ or benzyl, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl and R⁵ and R⁶ together are O;

R⁵ and R⁶ together are O or S; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof.

6. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is H and X, n, Y, m, Z, p and R¹⁻⁶ for each compound are as follows:

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X	n	Y	m	Z	p	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵ R ⁶
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Br	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	C(CH ₃) ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	NO ₂	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₂ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	4-pyridylmethyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	CH ₂ CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O

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CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH(CH ₃) ₂	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₂ N(CH ₂ CH ₃) ₂	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₂ N(CH ₂ CH ₃) ₂	O
NH	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
NH	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	O	1	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	phenyl	NO ₂	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	H	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	NO ₂	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-pyridyl	NO ₂	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	H	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	phenyl	NO ₂	H	O
NH	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	3-pyridylmethyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	4-pyridylmethyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O

7. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is H and X, n, Y, m, Z, p and R¹⁻⁶ for each compound are as follows:

X	n	Y	m	Z	p	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵ R ⁶
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Br	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O

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CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	C(CH ₃) ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	NO ₂	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₂ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	4-pyridylmethyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	CH ₂ CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH(CH ₃) ₂	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₂ N(CH ₂ CH ₃) ₂	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	O
CH ₂	1	--	0	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	benzyl	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₂ N(CH ₂ CH ₃) ₂	O
NH	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
NH	1	CH ₂	2	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	--	0	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	S
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	O	1	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O.

8. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is H, p is 0, and X, n, Y, m, R¹⁻⁵ for each compound are as follows:

X	n	Y	m	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵ and R ⁶
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CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Br	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	O
CH ₂	1	CH ₂	1	CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	O.

9. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, p is 0, R¹ is CH₃, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl, R⁴ is H and R⁵ and R⁶ together are O.

10. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ together form a double bond in the diazepine ring, R⁶ is the group NHR⁷ and p is zero.

11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl, R³ is Cl or Br and R⁷ is CH₃, CH₂CH₃, benzyl, 4-pyridylmethyl-, 4-pyridylethyl, CH(CH₃)₂, 4-imidazolylethyl or CH₂CH₂OH.

12. (Amended) A compound according to claim 10, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃, and R², R³ and R⁷ are as follows:

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R ²	R ³	R ⁷
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃
2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₃
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₃
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	benzyl
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	4-pyridylmethyl
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	4-pyridylethyl
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	2-(4-imidazolyl)ethyl
2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH
2-fluorophenyl	Br	CH ₃
2-chlorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃ .

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13. (Amended) A compound according to claim 10, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is chlorine or bromine and R⁷ is methyl.

14. A compound according to claim 10, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl and R⁷ is CH₃.

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15. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein p is zero and R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ together form the group -C(R⁸)=U-V=.

16. A compound according to claim 15 wherein

W is H;

X is CH₂, n is 1;

Y is CH₂, m is 1;

R¹ is CH₃ or CH₂CH(CH₃)₂;

R² is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;

R³ is Cl or Br;

R⁸ is H, CH₃ or CH₂OH;

R⁹ is H, CH₃, CH₂OH or CH₂O-t-butyl;

U is CR⁹ or N; and

V is N or CH.

17. A compound according to claim 15 wherein

W is H;

X is CH₂, n is 1;

Y is CH₂, m is 1;

R¹ is CH₃ or CH₂CH(CH₃)₂; provided that when R¹ is CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, X is CH₂, n is 1, R² is 2-fluorophenyl, R³ is Cl, R⁸ is CH₃, U is N and V is N;

R² is 2-fluorophenyl, 2-chlorophenyl or 2-pyridyl;

R³ is Cl or Br;

R⁸ is H, CH₃ or CH₂OH;

R⁹ is H, CH₃, CH₂OH or CH₂O-t-butyl;

U is CR⁹ or N; and

V is N or CH.

19. (Amended) A compound according to claim 15, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1 and R¹, R², R³, R⁸, U and V are as follows:

R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁸	U	V
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	CH ₃	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₃	CH	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	N	CH
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	H	C-CH ₃	N.

20. (Amended) A compound according to claim 15, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1, R¹ is CH₃, R² is 2-pyridyl, R³ is Br, R⁸ is CH₃, U is CH and V is N.

24. (Amended) A method of producing sedation or hypnosis, inducing anxiolysis, inducing muscle relaxation or treating convulsions in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25. (Amended) A method of producing sedation or hypnosis, inducing anxiolysis, inducing muscle relaxation or treating convulsions in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 10.

26. (Amended) A method of producing sedation or hypnosis, inducing anxiolysis, inducing muscle relaxation or treating convulsions in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 15.

28. Methyl-3-[(3S)-7-chloro-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-1,4-benzodiazepin-3-yl]propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

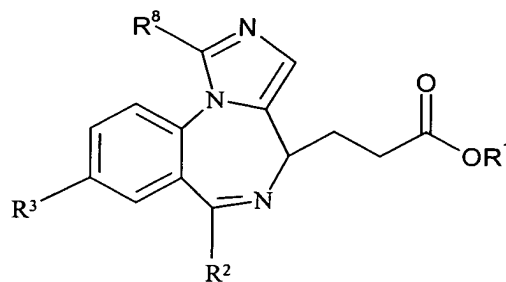
29. Methyl-3-[(3S)-7-chloro-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)-3H-1,4-benzodiazepin-3-yl]propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.
30. Methyl-3-[(4S)-8-bromo-1-methyl-6-(2-pyridinyl)-4H-imidazo[1,2-a][1,4]benzodiazepin-4-yl]propanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

31. (New) A compound according to claim 15, wherein W is H, X is CH₂, n is 1, Y is CH₂, m is 1 and R¹, R², R³, R⁸, U, and V are as follows:

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R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁸	U	V
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	CH	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	CH	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	C-CH ₃	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	C-CH ₂ OH	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₂ OH	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₃	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	CH ₃	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Br	H	C-CH ₃	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	C-CH ₃	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	H	C-CH ₂ OH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₂ OH	CH	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₃	C-CH ₃	N
CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	N	N
CH ₃	2-chlorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	N	N
CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	N	N
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	N	CH
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	CH ₃	N	CH
CH ₃	2-fluorophenyl	Cl	H	C-CH ₂ O-t-butyl	N
CH ₃	2-pyridyl	Cl	CH ₃	C-CH ₂ OH	N.

32. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1.
33. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 2.
34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 28.
35. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 29.
36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 30.
37. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ic),



Formula (Ic)

wherein

R¹ is H, C₁₋₇ straight chain alkyl, C₃₋₇ branched chain alkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R² is phenyl, 2-halophenyl, or 2-pyridyl;

R³ is H, Cl, Br, F, I, CF₃, or NO₂; and

R⁸ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or C₁₋₄ hydroxyalkyl

said process comprising the steps of:

- 1) reacting a compound of formula (M)